



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

MAR 4 1999

### Carrying Conservation to the Next Century

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the Department of Agriculture's largest conservation program. With today's announcement, about 5 million acres of environmentally-sensitive land have been devoted to less intensive uses with resource-conserving covers that protect fragile soils from eroding, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

CRP provides income to producers who voluntarily protect their most fragile and environmentally-sensitive lands. Enrollment in CRP yields improved water quality, cleaner air, reduced sedimentation, and greater wildlife habitat.

CRP also enrolls certain highly desirable environmental lands under a continuous signup opportunity. Farmers and ranchers may enroll any of a number of practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, and grass waterways at anytime at their local USDA Service Center.

We continue to work with our State partners in conservation. Combining Federal and State resources, we are addressing environmental issues of importance to the States and nation. We are working to restore the environmental and economic viability of areas near Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, the Illinois and Minnesota Rivers, the New York city watershed, estuaries and rivers in North Carolina, and salmon habitat in Oregon and Washington.

The Farm Service Agency has more CRP information available through its Internet site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crpinfo.htm>.

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN  
Secretary

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER